



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

**James Randolph Farris, M.D.
Regional Administrator**

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December 6, 2001

Our Reference: WA-LA0257.90.02

Mr. Ben Bearden, Medicaid Director
Bureau of Health Services Financing
Department of Health and Hospitals
1201 Capitol Access Road
P.O. Box 91030
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-9030

Dear Mr. Bearden:

I am responding to your recent correspondence by approving a 90-day temporary extension of your Home and Community-Based Services waiver (HCBSW) No. 0257.90.02. This waiver provides services to elderly and disabled individuals who would otherwise require institutionalization in a nursing facility. The HCBSW No. 0257.90.02 expires on December 27, 2001. This temporary extension is to ensure continued operation of the waiver pending receipt of the waiver renewal request. Your letter indicated you needed more time to review the cost effectiveness of the waiver and to review the Barthelemy settlement related to the waiver.

Because a decision regarding renewal of this waiver could not be made before it expires on December 27, 2001, I am granting the State of Louisiana a third 90-day temporary extension of HCBSW No. 0257.90.02. This program is approved under the authority of section 1915 (c) of the Social Security Act. The extension allows you to continue waiver services from December 28, 2001 through March 27, 2002 at the per capita cost and utilization levels approved for the fifth year of the current waiver program.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Rupley of my staff at 214-767-6278.

Sincerely,

James Randolph Farris, M.D.
Regional Administrator

cc: Director, Center for Medicaid and State Operations